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“While America itself has been slipping into a state of political psychosis for at least a decade now, disenchantment and disaffection with democracy is a growing phenomenon worldwide.”  
— TERRY GLAVIN, PAGE A11

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# REPEACHED



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi presides over the vote to impeach President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

JONATHAN ERNST / REUTERS

## COMMENT

### Garneau receives vexed Chinese missive

JOHN IVISON

Marc Garneau has only been in his new job for a couple of days but he has already been on the receiving end of diplomatic correspondence with Chinese characteristics.

These broadsides generally consist of an admonishment for Canada to mind its own business when China wants to mistreat political opponents at home and abroad.

The one received by the new global affairs minister on Wednesday was no exception, as the Chinese government expressed its “strong dissatisfaction” and called on Canada to cancel measures taken the previous day to prohibit the importation of goods “wholly or in part produced with forced labour” in the Xinjiang region, home to one fifth of the world’s cotton production.

“Stop interfering in China’s internal affairs ... so as not to cause further damages to China-Canada relations,” said a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Ottawa.

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## Trump impeached for second time

DAVID MORGAN AND RICHARD COWAN

WASHINGTON • Donald Trump became the first U.S. president to be impeached twice, charged with inciting an insurrection just a week after a violent mob of his supporters stormed the Capitol.

The vote in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives was 232-197 Wednesday, with 10 Republicans joining the Democrats in backing impeachment of the president in his waning days in power.

But it appeared unlikely that the extraordinarily swift impeachment would lead to Trump’s ouster before the Republican president’s term ends and Democratic President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

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ERIN SCOTT / REUTERS

A U.S. Marine guards the West Wing of the White House, signalling that the president is in the Oval Office.

## ‘We’ll take him in Canada for four years’

TOM BLACKWELL

The line of cars snaked through downtown, large Donald Trump and “Stop the Steal” flags protruding from their windows.

The motorized rally last Wednesday was in some ways a familiar sight in this season of endless dispute over the U.S. presidential election. As it unfolded, protesters egged on by President Trump stormed the Capitol building in Washington.

But the vehicular demonstration didn’t take place anywhere in the United States. The pro-Trump event traversed downtown Toronto, as other fans of the U.S. president held similar gatherings in Vancouver, Calgary and Red Deer, Alta.

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## New COVID rules raise civil liberties concerns

### RESTRICTIONS

TYLER DAWSON

The curfew in Quebec and vague stay-at-home orders in Ontario are raising civil liberties concerns, says the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

“This is a significant restriction on liberty and we take that very seriously,” said Cara Zwibel, director of the fundamental freedoms program. “We understand that governments are in a situation that they’ve not faced before and they’re really struggling how to manage it, and I wish I had the perfect solutions to do it that didn’t involve restricting all of these liberties, but I don’t.”

Since Jan. 9, Quebec has had in place a curfew, restricting residents to their homes between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. While there are some exceptions, such as taking the dog for a walk, those who are homeless, for example, aren’t protected from the curfew restrictions, which will be in place until Feb. 8.

“By putting a curfew in place, you’ve set a time of day after which police, seemingly, have the right to stop people and question them and ask them why they need to be out of their homes,” said Zwibel.

The province said it was confident police would use their judgment appropriately in enforcing the curfew, which could see fines between \$1,000 and \$6,000 handed out. “We do need to worry about enforcement,” said Zwibel.

Her concerns appear to have been realized. Reports have surfaced about questionable enforcement, including the ticketing of evening-shift workers at a meal-kit factory, even though they had letters from their employer explaining why they were out, CTV Montreal reported. A Montreal woman told media police insisted on searching her bag while she was stopped.

“Those are unreasonable uses of this police power, and we’re concerned about the direction that things are going,” Zwibel said.

“It’s sort of exactly what we would’ve predicted, but were hoping wouldn’t be the case.”

The province said it handed out 750 tickets in the first weekend of the curfew.

Ontario on Tuesday implemented a second provincial emergency plan and a more stringent “stay-at-home” order that many panned as being vague and unclear regarding both the rules, and how they will be enforced. The stay-at-home order will be in place as of Thursday morning for 28 days.

“Stay home. I really could not be clearer,” Premier Doug Ford clarified on Wednesday. “If you’re not sure if a trip is absolutely essential, it probably isn’t.”

The province is recommending against intra-provincial travel, including between primary and secondary residences.

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## CANADA

MENG WANZHOU’S  
LIFE OF AFFLUENCE  
WHILE ON BAIL.  
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## Head of Radio-Canada spent month in Miami

CHRISTOPHER NARDI

OTTAWA • The head of Radio-Canada, the French arm of Canada’s public broadcaster, spent nearly the entire month of December working and vacationing in Miami, despite public health advice strongly discouraging travel, the

National Post has learned.

Michel Bissonnette, CBC/Radio-Canada’s executive vice-president of French Services and the public broadcaster’s second-in-command, went to his condo — located right on Miami beach according to public state records — on Dec. 2 to “tend

to business regarding this property,” Radio-Canada spokesman Marc Pichette confirmed by email Wednesday.

“He stayed in Miami from Dec. 2 to 27. He worked from there from Dec. 2 to 17 and was on vacation for the rest of his stay,” Pichette said.

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